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Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/INR:HPRECHT:NEA:WCRAWFORD:TH
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY AMMAN NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, IR, JO, SA, US

SUBJECT: SITUATION IN IRAN

1. SHARPLY DISQUIETING DEVELOPMENTS IN IRAN OVER PAST 48 HOURS WERE REVIEWED HERE AFTERNOON SEPTEMBER 8. IT WAS DECIDED THAT SITUATION CALLS FOR EARLIEST POSSIBLE PRIVATE EXPRESSION TO THE SHAH OF CONCERN, SUPPORT AND INTEREST IN HIS VIEWS ON HOW THESE DEVELOPMENTS CAN BEST BE HANDLED. WE CONSIDERED THAT IN THE ABSENCE OF SUCH EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT SHAH MIGHT COME TO FEEL EVEN MORE DEPRESSED AND
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SUSPICIOUS OF MOTIVES OF U.S. AS WELL AS OTHERS. IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES IT WAS DECIDED TO SEND AN APPROPRIATE ORAL MESSAGE TO THE SHAH FROM THE PRESIDENT TO BE DELIVERED BY AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN. TEXT IS CONTAINED IN FINAL PARAS.

2. IT WAS ALSO AGREED THAT THE GOVERNMENTS OF SAUDI ARABIA AND JORDAN SHOULD BE INFORMED OF OUR CONCERN,

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SUPPORT AND INTENDED MESSAGE TO REASSURE THEM THAT WE ARE NOT PASSIVE ABOUT THE SITUATION IN IRAN AND FULLY SHARE THE APPREHENSION WHICH THEY MUST FEEL. JIDDA AND AMMAN MAY CONVEY THIS AS APPROPRIATE. EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI LEADERS AT CAMP DAVID WILL BE INFORMED. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SADAT HAS ALREADY SPOKEN WITH THE SHAH BY TELEPHONE.

3. FYI: WE HAVE INFORMED IRANIAN EMBASSY HERE THAT A LARGE PENDING ORDER FOR TEAR GAS HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR EXPORT. WE ARE ADVISING KEY CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS OF OUR ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION IN IRAN AS BEING QUITE SERIOUS AND OUR IMMEDIATE INTENTIONS REGARDING U.S. RESPONSE. END FYI.

4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING SAUDI AND JORDANIAN COMMENTS ON THEIR VIEWS OF THE SITUATION IN IRAN, INTENDED COURSES OF ACTION, IF ANY, AND REACTIONS TO OUR INITIAL COURSE OF ACTION. THOSE GOVERNMENTS MAY WISH CONSIDER PARALLEL MESSAGES OF SUPPORT TO THE SHAH.

5. FOR LONDON: IN RESPONSE TO INQUIRY BY BRITISH EMBASSY (SQUIRES/MUIR), WE CONVEYED THE FOREGOING. IT MAY ALSO BE USED BY YOU AS APPROPRIATE.

6. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PRESIDENTIAL ORAL MESSAGE WHICH AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN SHOULD DELIVER SOONEST TO THE SHAH.
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QUOTE:

-- RECENT EVENTS IN IRAN ARE A MATTER OF SERIOUS CONCERN TO ALL OF IRAN'S FRIENDS IN THE U.S. WE ARE DEEPLY SADDENED AT THE LOSS OF LIFE. WE FULLY APPRECIATE THE SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES THAT THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT CONFRONTS AS IT SEEKS TO PURSUE ITS ANNOUNCED AND COMMENDABLE PROGRAM OF POLITICAL LIBERALIZATION.

-- WE HAVE GREAT CONFIDENCE IN THE SHAH'S ABILITY TO DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH THE PRESENT SITUATION. WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT HIS LONG EXPERIENCE AND INTENSE DESIRE TO ADVANCE THE WELL-BEING OF HIS PEOPLE WILL GUIDE HIM IN HIS HANDLING OF THE PRESENT DIFFICULTIES.
--WOULD APPRECIATE SHAH S EVALUATION OF THE PRESENT
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SITUATION.END QUOTE.

7. PLEASE TELL THE SHAH THE PRESIDENT WILL TELEPHONE HIM AT 0800 WASHINGTON TIME SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 10.

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8. WE DO NOT PLAN AT THIS STAGE TO MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENT
BUT MAY CONSIDER THIS AS A LATER OPTION. CHRISTOPHER

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